GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
FOREST LAND IN METROPOLITAN CITIES
Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of metropolitan cities wherein forest land exist as per the provisions of forest laws alongwith the area of such land, city-wise;

(b) whether the forest land in these metropolitans is shrinking;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (d) Statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in para (a) to (d) of Starred Question No. 166 by Shri Kashiram Rana and Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo on Forest Land in Metropolitan Cities to be answered on 10.12.2008.

(a) The data on forest land, Metropolitan wise, for the 35 Metropolitan cities (cites above 1 million population as per 2001 census) is not readily available.However, estimates of forest cover in the districts in which these Metropolitan cities lie are made by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). The change in the forest cover in the districts related to 35 Metropolitan cities is given at Annexture-1.

(b) No sir, there has been no de-notification of the forest lands falling in any of the districts in which the 35 Metropolitan cities of the country lie. As evident from the data in the Annexture-1, the forest cover in the districts of Metropolitan cities has marginally increased from 280055 sq. km. to 28431 sq. km. as per the assessments done by FSI in 2003 and 2005, respectively. As per this assessment, out of the 35 Metropolitans, the forest cover has increased in 18, decreased in 10 and remainted unchanged in 7 Metropolitans.

(c)& (d) The diversion of any forest land for non forestry purposes attracts the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Activities to promote greenery thorugh afforestation and tree planting are undertaken by the State and UT Governments though their programmes of social forestry, urban forestry and other special plantations drives.In addition,the Urban Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (UDPFI) Guidelines, 1966 of the Ministry of Urban Development have specified proposed land use structure of urban centres in both plain areas and hill towns.The percentage of land to be devoted to recreational/greenery/forest use is 20-25 in respect of metropolitan cities in plains and 16-20 in respect of large cities in the hill areas.